

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 310805Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9161

S E C R E T SEOUL 6842

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

JOINT EMBASSY/UNC MESSAGE

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MAR, KS, KN, US

SUBJECT: AUGUST 31 MAC SECRETARIES' MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 215067, (B) STATE 214999

1. EMBASSY AND UNC OFFICERS CONVEYED TO ROK COUNTERPARTS IN MOFA AND MND APPROACH WE PLAN TO TAKE AT AUGUST 31 MAC SECRETARIES' MEETING BASED ON INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REF A. BOTH MOFA AND NMD OFFICERS ACCEPTED INFORMATION WITHOUT COMMENT. MND LIAISON OFFICER TO MAC MADE NO REQUEST OR SUGGESTION FOR CHANGE IN SECRETARIES'S INSTRUCTIONS.

2. UNC ISSUED PRESS RELEASE MORNING AUGUST 31 IN ACCORD INSTRUCTIONS REF B, FOLLOWING RECEIPT KPA AGREEMENT EVENING AUGUST 30 TO HOLD MEETINGS WITHOUT PUBLIC OR PRESS PRESENT.

3. WITH REGARD PRESS TREATMENT, ROKS IN FACT JUMPED THE GUN AND ONCE AGAIN WENT BEYOND GUIDANCE WE HAD GIVEN THEM TO CONFINE PRESS COMMENT TO SIMPLE STATEMENT THAT SECRETARIES' MEETING WOULD BE HELD. KOREAN PRESS MORNING AUGUST 31 NOT ONLY CARRIED ANNOUNCEMENT OF
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MEETING BUT QUOTED INFORMED SOURCES AS SAYING MEETING

BEING HELD TO DISCUSS "UNC DEMANDS FOR PUNISHING THOSE
NORTH KOREAN COMMUNIST GUARDS RESPONSIBLE FOR AN
UNPROVOKED ATTACK ON UNC WORKING PARTY, REDUCING
NUMBER OF GUARDS OF BOTH SIDES TO BE ASSIGNED TO JSA,
ALLOWING NON-MINUTARY PERSONNEL TO MOVE FREELY IN THE
AREA, AND REMOVING FOUR NORTH KOREAN GUARD POSTS IN THE
SOUTHERN SIDE OF THE MILITARY DEMARCATION LINE."
POLCOUNS TOLD AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRECTOR PAK SANG-
YONG THAT WE REGRETTED THESE STATEMENTS WHICH WENT WELL
BEYOND SPECIFIC GUIDANCE PREVIOUSLY GIVEN ROKS, THAT
ANNOUNCEMENTS SUCH AS THIS OPENED US TO NORTH KOREAN
CRITICISM, SINCE WE HAD AGREED WITH NORTH TO CLOSE
MEETINGS TO PRESS AND PUBLIC, AND THAT WE WOULD
APPRECIATE STRINGENT CONTROL ON FUTURE STATEMENTS
REGARDING MAC SECRETARIES' DISCUSSIONS. PAK
IMMEDIATELY AGREED THAT PRESS REPORTS WERE REGRETTABLE,
SAID THAT HE WOULD INFORM MOFA SPOKESMEN AND HIGHER UPS
OF OUR DISPLEASURE AND THAT HE WOULD ALSO REQUEST
TIGHTER CLAMP BE PUT ON MND STATEMENTS TO PRESS.
UNC SENIOR MAC REPRESENTATIVE MADE SIMILAR PITCH TO
ROK LIAISON OFFICER TO MAC.
SNEIDER

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED DODE.

SECRET

NNN

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